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**STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.**



REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR



FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman : MRS. ANNIE PRATT.

Vice-Chairman : MR. H. E. ROSE.

Members of the Council :

Mr. R. F. Abbotts	Mr. H. Prescott
Mr. J. W. Bullock	Mr. R. G. Ready
Mr. A. W. Carradine	Mr. E. A. Robinson
Mr. W. A. Coley, J.P.	Mr. A. J. Seabright
Mr. A. Cook	Mr. B. R. Smithurst
Mr. D. A. Evans	Mr. A. Waldron.
Mr. P. G. Hopcroft, J.P.	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

MR. H. MADDOCK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Clerk :

MRS. W. SMITH.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.**

MADAM, CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1953.

The Report is divided into the following sections :—

- “ A ” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ” Housing.
- “ E ” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ” Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupations of the Area.

The principal Industries comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, blackplate and bright strip, cast iron hinges and holloware, chains for many purposes, wire cables, fans, forges, furnaces, woodwork, valves and valve accessories, an old established vinegar works, several firms engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil, and one of the largest power stations in the Midlands. In addition there are thirteen agricultural premises in the district.

SECTION "A."

AREA IN ACRES	....	....	....	....	....	....	3218
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1953) according to Rate Book	....	....	....	....	....	....	3002
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	....	....	....	....	£54,723
SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE	....	....	....	....	....	....	£210
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION (mid 1953)	....	....	....	....	....	....	10,400

LIVE BIRTHS.

				TOTALS.			
				Male	Female	1953	1952
LEGITIMATE	....	....	....	98	99	197	190
ILLEGITIMATE	....	....	....	3	3	6	9
				101	102	203	199

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District was 19.5 19.2

THE BIRTH RATE for England and Wales for the same period was 15.5 15.3

STILL BIRTHS.

				MALE	FEMALE	1953	1952
LEGITIMATE	....	....	....	1	3	4	2
ILLEGITIMATE	....	....	....	—	1	1	—
				1	4	5	2

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 civilian population was .48 .19

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 civilian population for England and Wales for the same period was .35 .35

DEATHS.

				MALE	FEMALE	1953	1952
				46	36	82	112
The death rate per 1,000 estimated population was						7.88	10.77
The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was						11.4	11.3
Maternity Mortality rate for the year per 1,000 births: (live and still) was						Nil	Nil
Maternity Mortality rate for England and Wales for the same period was						.76	.72

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	MALE	FEMALE	1953	1952
Legitimate	6	2	8	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 5

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 39.4 25.1

The Infant Mortality Rate for the same period for
England and Wales was 26.8 27.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 23 21

Deaths from Measles (all ages) — —

Deaths from Whooping Cough — —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) — —

Ref. **Causes of Death** (including Transferable Deaths)

No.		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	4	—
12.	„ „ breast	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
20.	Other heart disease	7	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	—
22.	Influenza	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	4
34.	All other accidents	1	—
35.	Suicide	1	—

SECTION "B."

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services.

Producer samples of milk and water are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological and pathological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service.

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year	....	....	366
Women delivered	....	....	280
Infants born alive	....	....	284
Infants deaths	....	....	12
Infants stillborn	....	....	4
Maternal deaths	....	....	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	9
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	Nil

Infectious Diseases.

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. Six cases from Stourport-on-Severn Urban District were admitted during the year, details of which are as follows :

- 2 Cases of Scarlet Fever
- 4 Cases of Measles.

Tuberculosis.

Out-patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary where Dr. Cronin attends on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. In-patients' treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium, and at St. Wulstan's Sanatorium, Malvern. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment and "follow-up" are carried out at the following :—
Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Other neighbouring Hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered by the Local Health Authority.
There are :—

- (i) Two Nurses and one part-time relief who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.
- (ii) A whole-time Health Visitor and School Nurse who attends school medical inspections treats minor ailments at the school clinic, and visits cases of mental defect. She visits infants and children in the home and is responsible for their welfare from 14 days until they attend school at 5 years when she continues to supervise under the school scheme. She attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in this district.

A whole-time Health Visitor/School Nurse who supervises the upper part of Burlish Estate and the County Modern School and also attends the Infant Welfare Clinic at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.

- (iii) A whole-time Health Visitor who visits cases of Tuberculosis.

Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, in charge of Doctors MacArthur, C. Mackie, Winter, Black, W. T. Mackie, and Matron respectively. A clinic is also held by the District Midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held each Friday at the Lucy Baldwin Clinic with a Doctor in attendance on the first and third Friday in each month and the third Wednesday at the Wilden Village Hall.

Areley Kings.

An Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon. Children under five are immunised at these Clinics and Vaccination is carried out as required.

SECTION "C."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is Mount Pleasant, Bewdley.

Mains extensions were carried out to provide a supply to the houses in the portion of Astley Cross which became part of this Urban District in April of this year.

Samples taken regularly in conjunction with the Borough of Bewdley for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination have given satisfactory results. The water was found to be satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, and there is no plumbo-solvent action.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Disposal of sewage at the Oldington Disposal Works used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley, has continued satisfactorily. The sewer in Bewdley Road North was extended to cater for new development on the west side of the road.

SECTION “D.”

Housing.

43 Houses were completed by the Council during the year and 26 by private enterprise.

Number of Council Houses in Urban District	....	....	783
Number of hutted dwellings requisitioned by Council	....	....	283
Number of Houses requisitioned by Council	....	....	Nil
Number of Applicants for Council Houses	....	....	366
Number of above Applicants who are living in lodgings	....	....	197
Approximate total number of persons represented by Application list	....	....	1,100

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation in the district, one Demolition Order was made, two Closing Orders and two Undertakings not to re-let accepted.

Seven families were rehoused from condemned properties.

Burlish Estate.

Experiments to find the cause and method of prevention of dampness in these temporary bungalows have continued with little result. The Council have agreed to close, and when possible demolish those structures showing persistent severe dampness as the present tenants are rehoused or moved to other buildings on this estate.

Local flooding occurring after heavy rain continues to give trouble despite the measures taken to prevent it.

Titton and Walshes Farm Area.

- (a) The policy with regard to the future use of the Titton Shack Area is still under consideration by a Special Committee of the County Council.
- (b) Walshes Farm Camping Site :
Negotiations with regard to the future use of this land as a camping site were in progress at the end of this year.

Houseboats.

During the past year no serious complaint has arisen from the use of Houseboats for permanent habitation in the Canal Basins.

SECTION "E."

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream Manufacture.

The number of manufacturers of Ice Cream on the register is six and the number of retailers of Ice Cream thirty. Regular samples are being taken from all the Manufacturers and these have proved satisfactory.

Food Poisoning. No outbreaks occurred during the year.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcester-shire County Council, reports that 17 samples of Milk, 60 samples of other foods, and 13 samples of drugs were taken for analysis during the year. Four samples were reported against, these being samples of processed cheese which the analyst regarded as being of inferior quality by reason of the high moisture content. The suppliers were informed. At present there is no standard for this commodity.

SECTION "F."

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :—

1. Pre-School Children	....	....	138
2. School Children	....	....	38
3. Reinforcing Doses	....	....	303
			479

General.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table :—

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	303	4	—
Whooping Cough	145	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	9	—	—

The incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough has been much above the average during this year.

Insufficient time has elapsed to know whether the increasing use of Whooping Cough immunisation combined with Diphtheria will have any real effect on the incidence or severity of this distressing disease.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Conclusion.

The Council have made more progress in their efforts to build houses during the year and it is hoped that progress will continue steadily.

It is to be hoped that pending legislation will enable essential repairs to be carried out in rent controlled properties. No effort has been spared by the Health Department to get necessary repairs done to keep such properties in a habitable condition.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.**

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

Refuse Collection.

Every endeavour was made during the year to maintain a weekly collection of domestic refuse throughout the whole of the district. Only during the month of November was the service interrupted, this being due to the absence of a number of collectors through illness.

The too Shelvoke and Drury refuse vehicles continue to give satisfactory service, and only certain minor repairs were necessary.

The responsibility for the provision of proper refuse receptacles as between landlord and tenant is still a problem unsolved, and certain owners replying to informal notices requiring them to provide a bin have stated emphatically that they do not intend complying with the notice and will resist any further action against them by the Council. In consequence of this, a considerable number of rent controlled properties are without bins and others use cardboard boxes, etc.

Under present legislation the only completely satisfactory way of dealing with this problem is for the Local Authority to provide all bins, either as part of the refuse collection service out of the rate fund, or by making an annual charge on all properties where bins are provided.

Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjoining Hartlebury Common. On several occasions fires have broken out in the tip, and considerable difficulty was experienced in extinguishing them. These fires were due to two causes :—

- (a) Lack of suitable covering material ;
- (b) Unauthorised persons disturbing the refuse and lighting fires.

In the case of (a) above. When the new Karrier Bantum is delivered regular attention will be paid to covering the tip with suitable material.

With regard to (b) above, a number of successful prosecutions were taken against unauthorised persons found disturbing the refuse following the posting of warning notices at the entrance gate.

Cleansing of Cesspools and Pail Closets.

This work is carried out regularly by the Dennis cesspool gulley emptier. Cesspools are emptied free of charge when required and all pail closets are emptied weekly. There are approximately one

hundred such closets in the unsewered parts of the district, the greater percentage being in the Titton area.

Three closet conversions were carried out during the year, one in Mitton Gardens, and two at Astley Cross, in the area which became part of this Urban District on April 1st.

Salvage.

The market for waste paper did not improve throughout the year, but in December we were informed that the demand for this commodity was increasing and the Company with whom we had a contract were again prepared to accept our waste paper.

We were, however, able to dispose of scrap metal and rags, for which there is always a steady demand.

SUMMARY OF SALVAGED MATERIALS COLLECTED.

				<i>Weight.</i>			<i>Amount Realised.</i>		
				<i>Tons.</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	....	....	....	12	10	0	64	15	7
Scrap Metal	....	....	....	24	18	0	45	7	7
Rags	....	....	....	—	—	—	17	0	7
				Total			£127	3	9

Atmospheric Pollution.

There are still in this district a number of factory chimneys which fairly regularly emit smoke in such a quantity as to be a nuisance, and it was found necessary to circularise all factories drawing attention to the Council's Byelaws which limits the emission of black smoke from any chimney to three minutes in any continuous period of thirty minutes.

Although individual chimneys at the British Electricity Authority's Power Station rarely emit black smoke in excess of the byelaw requirements, collectively they are responsible for the formation, on certain days, of a dense grey cloud, which on damp or foggy days hangs over the town and considerably reduces the amount of available sunlight, and considerably retards the dispersal of fog.

In October lead peroxide instruments were placed at four points to ascertain the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. Taking an average of the three months, October, November and December, the heaviest concentration would appear to be in the Baldwin Road area, and this is probably due to the emission of flue gases at a low level at the Enamelware works in the area.

Fourteen observations of factory chimneys were made during the year.

Rodent Control.

The destruction of rats and mice continues to be carried out satisfactorily by the Council's Rodent Operative.

A free service is given to all householders and business premises are charged with the cost of labour and materials. Four business firms have contracts for the systematic destruction of rats and mice.

One of the most difficult infestations which we were called upon to deal with occurred in the sewers at Burlish Estate. It would appear that there are a great number of disused drains all over the estate which are a ready-made harbour for rats, and a minor local infestation can soon become major and widespread as a result.

Summary of Work Carried Out 1953.

<i>Type of Premises.</i>					<i>Number of Treatments.</i>
Local Authority's Property	....	....	....	....	12
Business Premises	....	....	....	....	31
Dwelling Houses	....	....	....	....	373
Land	....	....	....	....	5

Public Conveniences.

Redecoration and repair was carried out at both the Park and Lion Hill conveniences, the external appearance of the latter being particularly improved, by the treatment of the walls with cream paint.

It is most unfortunate that there are still certain persons about who cannot enter this type of building without doing some act of structural damage. In particular the toilet roll holders and door springs at Bridge Street are regularly found damaged. One wonders if the offenders realise that their money pays for the repair and maintenance necessary.

The Bridge Street conveniences proved completely inadequate to deal with the large crowds which came to this town during the August Bank Holiday. It is quite obvious that the number of people visiting Stourport at the week-end is growing continuously and the provision of further sanitary conveniences in the vicinity of the riverside is becoming a matter of extreme urgency.

Housing.

As in previous years, difficulty was again experienced in obtaining essential repairs at rent controlled houses. More and more houses are falling to such a state of disrepair that they cannot be repaired at a reasonable expense.

If time permitted, and a survey of all rented houses made, only a very small percentage would be found to be fit in all respects.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT FOLLOWING ACTION TAKEN BY THIS DEPARTMENT.

Structural Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	3
Roof Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	4
Windows and Doors	....	....	....	....	....	2
Dampness Remedied	....	....	....	....	....	2
Floors Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	1
Firegrates Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	3
Wall plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1

Summary of Works carried out following Action by this
Department :

W.C. Fittings Repaired or Renewed	....	....	2
W.C. Structures Repaired	....	....	1
New Dustbins Provided	....	....	22
Accumulations Removed	....	....	2
Drains Unblocked and Cleansed	....	....	15

Houses Incapable of Repair at Reasonable Expense.

Demolition Orders—Section 11 Housing Act 1936	....	1
Closing Orders—Section 12 Housing Act 1936	....	2
Undertaking Accepted	....	2

Canal Boats.

The canal and basins are now only used for pleasure traffic and consequently no canal boat inspections were made.

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Distributors	....	7
Number of Registered Dairies	....	3

Designated Milk—Licences Granted :

Dealer Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	1
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Supplementary Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	3

There is only one retailer of undesignated milk in this town. A sample of this milk was submitted for biological examination and found to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The slaughtering of animals for human food is still under the control of the Ministry of Food, the slaughtering for the district being carried out at Kidderminster. The following items were condemned during the year :

Canned Meat	....	100	Bacon	....	72 lbs.
„ Soup	....	6	Cooked Ham	....	76 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
„ Fruits	....	176	Beef Sausage	....	238 lbs.
„ Vegetables	....	128	Pork Sausage	....	55 lbs.
„ Milk	....	55	Faggots	....	48
„ Fish	....	54	Jellied Veal	....	19 lbs.
Cheese	....	37 lbs.	Cheese	....	26 boxes.

FOOD PREMISES.

The maintenance of a satisfactory standard of hygiene in premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food is still a very important duty which Sanitary Inspectors are called upon to perform.

Ninety-nine visits were paid to various types of food premises and no opportunity was lost to give advice.

Registered Food Preparation Premises Sec. 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Number on Register 5

Only one of these premises is used for the manufacture of cooked meats at the present time. During the year the preparation rooms were completely modernised, and the whole building is now of a very high standard.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM.

Number of Manufacturers on Register 6

Number of Retailers on Register 30

In addition to the above, ice cream is sold from four motor vehicles, three of which come into this district from other areas.

Details of Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

No. of Samples examined.	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
11	10	1	Nil.	Nil.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Total Number of Factories on Register ....	....	....	....	56
Factories with Mechanical Power ....	....	....	....	48
Factories with no Mechanical Power ....	....	....	....	8

The following is a summary of inspections made during the year with details of defects found and remedied:—

Total Number of Inspections 38

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Defects found.</i>	<i>Defects Remedied.</i>
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(a) Unsuitable or defective	1	1
(b) Not separate for sexes	—	—
(c) Insufficient	—	—
(d) Other offences	1	1

Section 34. Two certificates as to means of escape in case of fire were issued.

Outworkers. There is one person in the town employed on the manufacture of gloves.

WATER SUPPLY.

Sample submitted for bacteriological examination and Chemical analysis : 2.

Both samples were satisfactory.

New mains were laid to serve the portion of the Astley Cross area which came into this district on April 15th.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The number of pail closets to be emptied weekly was increased owing to the extension of the district boundary at Astley Cross. However, the greatest number are still in the Lower Heath area, and, until the future use of this land is decided upon, it is unlikely that a water carriage system of drainage will be provided.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Enquiries were made into all cases of infectious disease notified, and terminal disinfection was carried out where necessary and on request.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no premises in this district registered for the carrying on of offensive trades, but the travelling rag and bone dealers still visit the town offering various articles in exchange for rags. The areas which appear to be visited most frequently are the Council Estates.

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices :

Public Health Act 1936	....	....	....	....	22
Housing Act 1936	....	....	....	....	7
Food and Drugs Act	....	....	....	....	2

Statutory Notices :

Housing Act 1936, Sec. 9	....	....	....	....	1
Public Health Act 1936 Sec. 93	....	....	....	....	5
„ „ „ 39	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ 44	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ 45	....	....	....	....	1

SCHEDULE OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS 1953.

Housing Consolidated Regulations	....	....	....	....	6
Housing Act—Inspection on complaint	....	....	....	....	19
" " Routine	....	....	....	....	29
Public Health Act—on complaint	....	....	....	....	76
" " " Routine	....	....	....	....	154
Revisits—Housing Act	....	....	....	....	97
" Public Health Act	....	....	....	....	110
" Other	....	....	....	....	30
Inspection of work in progress	....	....	....	....	55
Infectious Disease Inquiries	....	....	....	....	9
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	99
Itinerant Vendors	....	....	....	....	15
Shops (Shops Act)	....	....	....	....	1
Factories (Mechanical Power)	....	....	....	....	38
" (No Mechanical Power)	....	....	....	....	1
Caravan Sites	....	....	....	....	30
Refuse Tip	....	....	....	....	75
Stables	....	....	....	....	5
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	14
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	174
Survey of Infestation (Rodent Control)	....	....	....	....	19
" " " " Business Premises	....	....	....	....	8
" " " " L.A. Property	....	....	....	....	37
" " " " Dwellinghouse	....	....	....	....	1
" " " " Agricultural Premises	....	....	....	....	14
Smoke Observation	....	....	....	....	371
Miscellaneous Inspections	....	....	....	....	5
Pet Shops	....	....	....	....	61
Visits to Inspect Food	....	....	....	....
					1,553

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT MADDOCK,
Sanitary Inspector.

